The following is an example of the monthly Quality Focus Check for Understanding from March 2017.

#### **Check For Understanding Quality Focus Merch 2017**

ase return to your supervisor by March 7, 2017.

Ne		Supervisor	
1)	What is the first thing an	agent should look at when a	a call comes to their station?

- If a customer requests that the agent verifies the Calling To number before dialing out the agent should type or say something like.
   The IP Call number to dial is entered by the inbound, therefore you DO NOT need to verify the Calling To number before outdialing on an IP call, even if it's in the Customer Notes to do so. TRUE FALSE
- The record feature may be used on conference calls.
   TRUE
   FALSE
- 5) If the customer has TYPE RECORDINGS as a preference or instruction the agent should not \_\_ This instruction indicates that the customers the agent to type the
- recording.
  If a device user requests that you do not announce relay, the agent should:
  - Not identify that this call is through a relay service or ask if the voice person has had a relay call before.
  - b) Inform the customer they must answer the question (HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR CALL ANNOUNCED Q) GA.
- c) Inform the caller they are required to announce the call.7) What is the purpose of the customer notes?
- - a) To assist the agent in processing the call how the customer prefers.
  - b) To annoy the operator.
  - c) To ensure the customer does not have to repeat their instructions before every call.
- d) Both A and C.
  8) When using <ALT >, agents should send it:
  - a) Only once and then pause a few moments before sending it again.
  - b) Twice and then pause a few moments before sending it again
  - c) As many times as they want since they are in the buffer and can be canceled when the phone is answered.

TTY/ASL Refresher	Provide examples of how to relay the statements	
"TIME WHAT Q		
- GO PARTY YOU Q		

Customer Service Initiative (CSI) program: A discussion of support techniques to enhance service for customers and an avenue for sharing relay agent peer to peer suggestions toward accomplishing superior service. 2016/2017 CSI topics are provided in the following table.

Jan 2016	Use of "Deaf/hard of hearing" and/or "internet service" in announcements.	
Feb 2016	Outdial time, Inappropriate use, Veterans and hearing loss	
April 2016	Sprint IP go ahead, Keeping the caller informed, Facilitate communication	
May 2016	Procedure for recordings, Chemotherapy and hearing loss	
Jun 2016	Caller control, Keeping the caller informed, Announcements, FCC verbatim requirement, State requirement call customization request	
Jul 2016	Solicitation for agent process improvement suggestions, Caller control	
Aug 2016	Call closure, Equal communication access	
Sep 2016	Call processing reference information, Sprint Relay customer care, Speed of service recognition	
Oct 2016	Brief service explanations, Call handling tips from agents	
Nov 2016	Customer commendations, States and capitals review	
Dec 2016	System enhancement prioritization	
Jan 2017	Customer instructions, FCC call take over rule, Transparency	
Mar 2017	Transparency, Caller control	
Apr 2017	Customer notes, Operator/Relay mode, Call handling tips from agents	
May 2017	Stress management	

The following is an example of our bi-annual Grammar and Spelling Rules from 2016/2017.



Hormonyms (also called homophones) are words that sound like one another but have different meanings. Some homonyms are spelled the same, like bank (the sound a dog makes) and bank (the outer layer of a tree trunk).

#### I and Me Usage

	when to use	example senience	HOW ID IEST:		
Ľ	rynen you're reterming to the subject of a sentence or clause	Julia (subject) and / (subject) aways go together.	To snow if you snow use "or "eig" take the other pronoun out of the sentence and see if it all makes		
Me	tyrien you're reterring to the object of a sentence or clause	vm you (subject) be coming with me (object) to the store?	SERGE.		

#### Examples:

Harry and If me went to the store.
Test: Me went to the store (incorrect!)
Test: / went to the store. (Correct!)

2. Jake invited Brian and if me over for dinner. Test: Jake invited J over for dinner. (Incorrect!) Test: Jake invited me over for dinner. (Correct!)

#### Ma

Will you take my brother and time to the movies?
Test: Will you take / to the movies? (incorrect)
Test: Will you take me to the movies? (Correct)

2. Sam, Jenniter, and June went to the beach. Test: Ale went to the beach. (Incorrect!) Test: I went to the beach. (Correct!)

There, Their, and They're Usage

There, then, and the tre usage		
brononucea me same	When to use	HOW TO JEST
Inere	Naming a place, a tring, or the existence of something	at you can replace tweeter was mere, you have a night
INOK	Showing possession	if you can substitute with our you have it night:
ineyre	Compiring the words "they" and "are"	"I ney" is a pronoun and "are" is one verb. If you can substitute "We are" you have it right!

Have and Has Usage

	Singular	Hural	Herit
7" Person	I nave	AAB UBA6	1-1246, Suo Little, sie nons biebeut reube
2" HEISON	AOR 113N5	You nave	conjugations of the verb "to have", and we use "have" or "hav" depending on the subject.
3" Herson	Hersneyt 1736	iney nave	If the subject is 3" person singular, then you use "has". All other subject take on "have".

It's and Its Usage

With the Assignment of the Ass			
	when to use	HOW TO JEST	HOW ID JEST
lt's	when you're about to describe something	Heptace with "It is"	ir you can repace "its" was "it is" you have it right. Otherwise do not
hs	when you want to indicate ownership of something	Neprace with another possessive adjective (Ther, "This," "their") or "The"	use punchation.

	Ten Common Spelling Rules	
	EMPAR.	
1. 'e' or 'e'  Write i before a, except ofter a  Write ie ofter a for words with a sh sound.  Write ei when the vowe's sounds like an a as in 'weigh'	Oschieve, believe, friend receive, receipt, perceive Osnaient, efficient, sufficient, conscience Oneighbor, vein, reign, rein, deign	Exceptions: Words like counterfeit, either, neither, height, leave, forfeit, foreign, science, species, seize, werd
2. 'S' OF 'ES'  Madd es if a word ends in sh, sh, ss, s or s  Add es for most words ending in a	Oerch > arches, clash > clashes, class > classes, box > boxes, quiz > quizzes Olomaio > tomatoes, hero > heroes, go > goes, do > does, echo > achoes	Exceptions: Words like allos, duas, pienas, radios, solas soprenos, studios, videos, typos
3. "y" to "i" or not  6 For words ending in y preceded by a  vowel, retain the y when adding s or a suffix.  6 For words ending in y, retain the y when adding to y.  6 For words ending in y, preceded by a  correspond, change the y to i before any other suffix.	convey > conveys, employ > employer     try > trying, justify > justifying, certify > certifying, study > studying     try > tried, justify > justifies, certify > certifying, study > mystifies, laboratory > laboratories	Exceptions: Words like dryness, shyness
4. drop the final 'e'  DROP five e when the suffix sterts with a yourd.  DROP five e when the word ends in dige.  DROP five final a when adding ling.	Grave > seveble, use > usable Grudge > judgment Grave > seving, monage > managing, bace > bacing, emerge > emerging	Exceptions: DO NOT DROP the e if the word ends in se or ge (e.g. manage > manageable, trace > traceable)
5. 't' or 't' when adding -ing, -ed and some suffices to verbs  O DOUBLE the i for verbs of one syllable with a single vowel, or a short vowel sound.  O DOUBLE the i for verbs of more than one syllable when the stress is on the last syllable.	Oral > rolling, rolled, rollen fit > filting, filted knot > knotling, knotled Oebet > shelling, shelling ellot > ellotling, shelling ellot > ellotling, sholled commit > committing, committed emit > emitting, emitted forget > korgetting, forgotten (but forgetfut)	Exceptions: BO NOT DOUBLE the f for verbs of one syllable with a double vowel or a long vowel sound (e.g. treat > treating, treated; great > greating, preated)
6. 'r' or 'r' when adding -ing, -ed and some suffices to verba  DOUBLE the r for verbs of one syllable when the final r is preceded by a single vowel.  DOUBLE the r for words of more than one syllable when the stress does not full on the first syllable.	Oster > steming, stemed, stemy ter > terming, terred wer > seming, stemed wer > seming, semed sir > steming, seemed sir > steming, stemed Oconcur > concurring, concurred, concurrence occur > occurring, occurred, occurrence defer > deferming, deferred, (but deference) defer > determing, deferred, (but microsce) infer > inferring, inferred, (but microsce) prefer > preferred, preferring, (but preference) refer > referred, referring, (but preference)	Exceptions:  DO NOT DOUBLE the r for verbs of one syllable when the final r is preceded by a double vasel (e.g. fear > fearing, feared) DO NOT DOUBLE the r for sands of more than one syllable, when the stress falls on the first syllable (e.g. prosper > prospered, prospering)
7. 'C or 'If when adding -ing, -ed and some suffices to verba DCUBLE the / when it is preceded by a single vowel.	cancel's concelling, cancelled, concellation fulfil - fulfilling, fulfilled, fulfilment level > leveling, levelled trovel > traveling, trovelled, traveler fraveler	Exceptions:  DO NOT DOUBLE the (when it is preceded by a double name) (e.g. concests) concesting, concested)

#### Staff Training

Our entire Accessibility team exists for our customers. Training on all aspects of ASL, deaf culture, the needs of hearing, speech and dual sensory impaired users, ethics and confidentiality is vital to our success. These topics and others help us to be able to meet and exceed customer expectations and requirements.

All Sprint employees are required to take ethics and confidentiality training. The Sprint Code of Conduct is applicable to Sprint employees and its controlled subsidiaries, the Sprint Board of Directors and anyone we authorize to act on Sprint's behalf. The Code establishes the basic foundation of Sprint's ethics by communicating our philosophy and commitment to all of our employees, customers, other stakeholders, and the communities in which we do business. The Sprint Code of Conduct outlines our ethical and legal responsibilities as employees, as well as our interactions with customers, competitors and suppliers. One of our most valuable assets is our reputation for honesty and fairness, and our commitment to uphold this responsibility. The Code is

a go-to resource when questions of legal or ethical appropriateness arise. We are bound by the Code and the specific operational policies of Sprint. Annual Code certification is required. Sprint also maintains an Ethics Helpline, a 24-hour resource for employees and other stakeholders to confidentially and safely seek advice or report any suspected violation of the Code of Conduct, such as fraud, sexual harassment, discrimination, or any illegal conduct in the workplace.

Sprint staff members are also required set annual corporate training and development goals. Individual performance is measured and tied to compensation. Ongoing Staff Development is also key to overall staff performance. Sprint's Accessibility Customer Solutions (ACS) group hosts an interactive meeting called the Sprint Accessibility Café. This monthly meeting is an opportunity for the Accessibility Team to share market and industry product updates. Presenters from outside the group and subject matter experts from the Relay industry also provide updates.

**Appendix C: TRS Pledge of Confidentiality** 

Sprint's reputation as an ethical company is the key to enabling us to be the preferred communications company – a place that delivers the best experiences for employees, end users, and state customers. Throughout initial and on-going training, communications assistants (CAs) receive information and guidelines on professional conduct with an emphasis on ethics and confidentiality, based on Sprint's "Relay Center Code of Ethical Conduct" and "Principles of Business Conduct." CAs are presented with possible situations involving ethical issues and are taught how to apply the conduct guidelines to each situation.

All Relay center personnel are required to sign and abide by a pledge of confidentiality that promises not to disclose the identity of any caller or any information learned during the course of relaying calls. In conjunction with signing Sprint's confidentiality agreement, as a part of training, CAs role-play various scenarios which teach the correct way to ask for assistance from a supervisor without divulging call-specifics. Examples of confidentiality breaches are reviewed and discussed with the CAs.

Sprint strictly enforces confidentiality policies in the center, which includes the following:

- Prospective employees are screened during the interview process on issues regarding ethics and confidentiality.
- On day one of training, employees must sign a Pledge of Confidentiality Agreement Form.
- During initial training, employees are presented with examples of potential breaches of confidentiality.
- Stress can be a factor in maintaining confidentiality. CAs receive three hours of training on healthy detachment.
- After graduation from initial training, employees are reviewed yearly on the Pledge of Confidentiality and are required to re-sign promises not to disclose the identity of any caller or any information learned during the course of relaying calls.
- Breach of confidentiality may result in termination of employment.
- All Sprint Accessibility Centers have security key access.
- Visitors are not allowed in work areas.

#### **Sprint Code of Conduct**

The Sprint Code of Conduct describes the ethical and legal responsibilities of employees of Sprint and anyone we authorize to act on Sprint's behalf. Sprint and all TRS employees (including Communication Service for the Deaf [CSD] staff) are required to annually certify that they understand and will comply with the established code of conduct. The certification tool and process requires employees to affirm their understanding and compliance of Code of Conduct expectations regarding Ethics, Inclusion and Diversity, Information Security, Insider Trading, Privacy, Records Management, Safety and Preparedness, and Time Reporting. The section on Ethics includes a Helpline for employee resources allowing them to confidentially and safely seek advice or report compliance violations.

The Sprint Code of Conduct covers all the serious concerns of a whistleblower policy, which is intended to encourage and enable employees and others to raise questions/concerns and seek resolution. It is explicitly stated in the Sprint Code of Conduct all employees and others are obligated to report violations or suspected violations. Additionally, Sprint has an explicit retaliation policy in which an employee who retaliates against someone who has reported in good faith or assists in an

investigation may be subject to corrective action up to and including termination. This information is contained within Sprint's Code of Conduct all employees are required to complete annually.

There is a TRS whistleblower protection notification posted at Sprint TRS call centers in accordance with FCC rules. CSD also obtains a signed acknowledgement of the receipt of the Whistleblower Policy from all employees upon hire, and annually thereafter.

#### Training on Ethics

Sprint Relay employees receive training on the appropriate protocol to protect relay users' privacy and how to prevent the unintentional disclosure of relay communications. When trainees observe calls and ask questions once back in the training room, trainers lead a discussion on the appropriate method to seek clarifications without divulging confidential information. CAs may also role-play various scenarios which demonstrate the correct way to request assistance from a supervisor without divulging call-specifics. Examples of ethical issues and challenging circumstances are reviewed and discussed with CAs. During initial training, CAs are required to pass a series of written and skills-demonstration tests, which include their understanding of the Relay Center Code of Ethics and how to apply the Code to hypothetical situations. Trainees who do not pass these tests are not utilized as CAs.

Sprint's high-performance culture focuses on accountability, first and foremost, along with open communication and innovation. Within these traits, integrity and ethics are critical success factors. Amidst unprecedented change and technological advancement, acting with integrity is not just the right thing to do; it is the unwavering foundation for Sprint.

#### Confidentiality

Sprint believes measures to ensure confidentiality are crucial to the success of TRS operations and has implemented procedural and environmental measures to safeguard customer and call information. Sprint has policies in place to protect users' confidentiality. These policies establish high standards for ethical behavior and employees are subject to disciplinary action, including termination of employment, for violating ethical and confidentiality standards.

Sprint employees receive training on confidentiality and ethics. Employees are trained to understand why confidentiality is important, how to protect confidentiality, the appropriate protocol to protect relay users' privacy, how to prevent the unintentional disclosure of relay communications and the consequences of not following all confidentiality requirements. CAs are taught using various scenarios which demonstrate the correct way to request assistance from a supervisor without divulging call-specifics. Annually, all TRS call center staff receives re-training which includes items such as confidentiality, ethics, and inclusion and diversity. All CAs annually sign a confidentiality agreement to maintain confidentiality.

Confidentiality is reinforced through our CAs participation in an interactive training program focusing on scenarios that they are likely to encounter when relaying calls.

To make a generic comment about calls: "Boy – long calls really wear me out."	Talking about the specific length of a call. For example, saying to another agent, "You know that call I took over for you? It lasted 84 minutes!"
To share general observations about calls: Example, "I'm noticing a lot of HCO calls lately."	Talking about specific callers. Example, "I relayed a call for Miss Deaf America." Or "I had that VCO user from Florida again this morning."
It is appropriate to respond to a customer's comments with a brief "thank you" or something to that effect without	The agent should never say to a customer: "I remember you from a previous call – how are you doing?" Phone lines do not talk to voice telephone users: it is the same with relay customers.

	Sample of Commission of Contributions
elaboration. Maintain a professional and friendly image with customers.	
It is appropriate to discuss with a member of management technical or procedural components of a call. For example, to say you had problems placing a calling card call from a pay phone.	It is not appropriate to discuss call content or conversations with others, ever.
It is appropriate to call for a Supervisor to look at your screen for assistance with the call.	It is not appropriate to request assistance from the agent sitting next to you.

All relay center personnel are required to sign and abide by the Sprint Relay policy for confidentiality. These confidentiality expectations are strictly enforced and employees are expected to comply with this policy during and after their period of employment. The relay center Code of Ethics requires the following:

- Keep all TRS call-related information strictly confidential.
- Keep no records of customer information or content of any TRS call.
- Refrain from editing or omitting anything from the content of the conversation or the spirit of the speaker.
- Refrain from adding or injecting into the content of the conversation or the spirit of the speaker.
- \* Assure maximum customer control.
- Strive to further skills and knowledge through training, workshops, and reading literature available in the field.

In accordance with the FCC, all information utilized for call set up, including customer database and preferred call type information remains confidential and cannot be used for anything but the call. Once the inbound party disconnects, all information pertaining to that call disappears from the CA's terminal. The required confidentiality and security of the customer preference data is covered during training of all employees and reinforced throughout employment. Sprint takes the following steps to ensure Customer Profile information remains secure:

- Sprint does not modify a customer's record based on experience.
- All Customer Profile database entries contain time and date stamps and note the identification number of the CA who processed the request.
- Relay users register a username and password/PIN. Sprint also asks customers to register
  a security question and answer only known to them in case the username and password is
  lost or forgotten.
- Sprint's Customer Profile information is encrypted and protected from outside access by firewalls.

#### CTI Confidentiality Form

Consumers need to be confident that their personal and professional calls are kept in the strictest confidence. It is crucial that all employees understand and abide by this Confidentiality Policy.

All information obtained during a CapTel call is to be kept strictly confidential. The only person(s) to whom information obtained during a call may be divulged is a member of the administrative team (i.e. supervisors, trainers, HR representatives, the Floor Operations Coordinator, or the Call Center Director). Only specific, pertinent information relating to Training, Call difficulty, Technical difficulties, Emergencies or Customer service issues may be disclosed to the appropriate personnel, and this must be done in private.

Under no circumstance are identifiers to be used while discussing a call (terminology that would identify personal information about a caller including, but not limited to, gender, name, address, and business information). The standard, objective way off referring to callers is to identify the person using the captioned telephone as the "client," while the other party or parties are referred to as the "doc(s)." Furthermore, any person not employed by CapTel, Inc. or its parent company shall not be allowed on or near the call floor.

Nor shall information regarding CapTel clients be discussed or posted in any public forum.

Employees agree to abide by the following:

- I shall only discuss the content of a CapTel call (production, training, timing, or otherwise) with a member of the administrative team under the guidelines provided above. I will not discuss the content of a CapTel call with other persons (CAs, friends, family members, etc.).
- I shall disclose only appropriate information regarding a training/timing call to a member of the administrative team according to the guidelines documented above.
- I shall not divulge specific information related to the work or calls I have heretofore processed, upon termination of my employment at CapTel or at any time thereafter.
- I shall not disclose information which could be used to identify specifics about a particular consumer to anyone except a member of the administrative team according to the guidelines documented above.
- I shall not act upon any information received via a CapTel call.
- I shall not listen to, get involved in, or position myself to observe a CapTel call being processed by another employee.
- I shall not disclose information which could be used to identify specifics about any employee
  including, but not limited to, name, CA number, and schedule, except as is necessary to
  appropriate individuals and/or institutions or services.
- I shall not divulge my personal CA number in conjunction with my name except as required by a member of the administrative team.
- I shall not disclose the technical aspects of my position to anyone not employed by CapTel/Ultratec.
- I shall not bring visitors, including children, onto the call floor.
- I shall remain off of the call floor if I am not scheduled to be at work.

Employee Name (please print)		
Employee Signature and Date	AMERICAN WAS COLUMN	

#### Sprint Confidentiality Form

IN CONSIDERATION of: (1) my employment with Sprint or any subsidiary, affiliate, or successor-in-interest of Sprint Corporation, (2) my continued employment as long as mutually agreeable, and (3) the opportunity to receive Sprint confidential customer information or other good and valuable consideration:

AS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE RELAY SERVICES ORGANIZATION, I UNDERSTAND THAT I AM BOUND BY ALL SPRINT POLICIES AND SPECIFICALLY, I AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 ALL TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERVICE (TRS) CALL RELATED INFORMATION SHALL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. I will not reveal any information acquired during or observing a relay call. I will only discuss call-related questions or problems with management or Human Resources. I agree to keep confidential all information I learn in my position for the duration of and after my employment with Sprint ends.
- NO RECORDS OF CUSTOMER INFORMATION OR CONTENT OF ANY TRS CALL SHALL BE KEPT BEYOND THE DURATION OF THE CALL, WITH LIMITED EXCEPTIONS FOR AUTHORIZED COMPANY PROCEDURES. I will not keep a record of any customer information or conversation content beyond the duration of the call except in accordance with company procedures for relaying Speech to Speech calls or for billing and customer profile purposes. I will destroy all such records in my possession immediately upon completion of their authorized use.
- 3 NOTHING MAY BE EDITED OR OMITTED FROM THE CONTENT OF THE CONVERSATION OR THE SPIRIT OF THE SPEAKER. I will transmit exactly what is said in the way that it is intended in the language of the customer's choice.
- 4 NOTHING MAY BE ADDED OR INTERJECTED INTO THE CONTENT OF THE CONVERSATION OR THE SPIRIT OF THE SPEAKER. I will not advise, counsel, or interject personal opinions, even when asked to do so by the customer.
- 5 TO ASSURE MAXIMUM CUSTOMER CONTROL, I WILL BE FLEXIBLE IN ADAPTING TO THE CUSTOMER'S NEEDS.
- 6 I WILL STRIVE TO FURTHER MY SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE THROUGH CONTINUED TRAINING, WORKSHOPS, AND READING OF CURRENT LITERATURE IN THE FIELD.
- 7 ALL SPRINT MATERIALS IN MY POSSESSION PERTAINING TO ANY SPRINT CUSTOMER WILL BE DELIVERED UPON THE TERMINATION OF MY EMPLOYMENT.
- I have read and understand the Sprint Relay Center Agreement Regarding Confidential Customer Information. I agree to comply and understand that failure to do so will lead to company disciplinary action

that may result in my termination and/or criminal prosecution. I also understand that ascertaining damages resulting from a breach of this agreement would be difficult. I agree that Sprint shall have the right to an injunction against me, enjoining any such breach without any obligation to post bond. I agree that this will be in addition to and without limiting any other remedies or rights Sprint may have against me.

#### **EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE AND DATE**

#### MANAGER/SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE AND DATE

#### Sprint Federal Confidentiality Form

The Federal Relay provides a transparent link of telecommunication between typed/signed/voice (disabled) and voiced (non-disabled) messages. As part of the relay services organization all employees and subcontractors are bound to the following rules and regulations:

- All Federal Relay call related information is to be strictly confidential.
- Nothing is to be edited or omitted from the content of the conversation or the spirit of the Federal Relay user.
- Nothing is to be added or interjected into the content of the conversation or the spirit of the Federal Relay user.
- To assure maximum user control, the employee will be flexible in adapting to the caller's needs.
- Employees and subcontractors will strive to further competency in skill and knowledge through continued training, workshops and reading of current literature in the field.

#### ~ Employee and Subcontractor Role ~

- 1) The employee or subcontractor shall not disclose the content of any relayed conversation with the exception of resolving issues with supervisors regarding customer complaints.
- 2) The employee or subcontractor is prohibited from identifying the name of any caller. The employee or subcontractor shall not reveal or act upon any information obtained from the caller while relaying calls, except to resolve issues regarding complaints that are handled through the supervisors.
- 3) The employee or subcontractor shall not discuss the specifics of any call relayed (even for training purposes) with coworkers, counselors, or other support services. Nor shall specifics be discussed with supervisors except to resolve issues regarding complaints.
- 4) Any Federal Tax Return information [as defined in Internal Revenue Code (IRC) 6103 (b)(1),(b)(2)] made available shall be used only for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Federal Relay contract. Information contained in such material shall be treated as confidential and shall not be divulged or made known in any manner to any person except as may be necessary in the performance of this contract. Disclosure to anyone other than an authorized employee or subcontractor of Sprint shall require prior written approval of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Requests to make such disclosures should be addressed to the GSA Contracting Officer.
- 5) Return information disclosed to an employee or subcontractor can be used only for a purpose and to the extent authorized within the Federal relay contract, and further disclosure or any inspection of such return information for a purpose of to an extent unauthorized herein respectively constitutes a felony or criminal misdemeanor punishable upon conviction by a fine as much as \$5,000.00 or imprisonment for as long as 5 years, or both together with the costs of prosecution. These penalties are pursuant to IRC 7213, 7213A, 7431, and 26 CFR Section 301.6103(n)-1.
- 6) Any such unauthorized future disclosure of returns or return information may also result in an award of civil damages against the employee or subcontractor in an amount not less than \$1,000.00 with respect to each instance of unauthorized disclosure. These penalties are prescribed by IRC sections 7213 and 7413 and set forth at 26 CFR Section 301.6103(n)-1.
- 7) Employees and subcontractors have been notified of the penalties for improper disclosure imposed by the Privacy Act of 1974, U.S.C 552a. specifically, 5 U.S. C. 552a(I)(1), which is made applicable to subcontractors by 5 U.S.C. 552a(m)(1), provides that any employee of a subcontractor who by virtue of his/her employment or official position, has possession of or access to agency records which contain individually identifiable information, the disclosure of which is prohibited by the Privacy Act or regulations established there under, and who knowing that disclosure of the specific material is so prohibited, willfully discloses the material in any manner to any person or agency not entitled to receive it, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$5,000.00.
- 8) Employees and subcontractors shall be responsible for the confidentiality of all calls relayed consistent with Federal Laws, Statutes, and Regulations.

9) Employees and subcontractors shall ensure that no records are maintained of any conversation, in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L 93-579), IRC 6103, 6103(n), 26 CFR Section 301.6103 (n)-1, the Internal Revenue Service Acquisition Procedures (IRSAP) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance on the Privacy Act of 1974 (Federal Register, Volume 52, No. 75, Page 12990).

10) This Pledge of Confidentiality will remain in the employee's and subcontractor's file until termination of employment and shall be made available to an authorized representative for the

General Services Administration (GSA) as may be requested.

7431.

I have read and fully understand the Federal Relay Code of Ethical Behavior. I agree that failure to do so will lead to disciplinary action that may include termination. I agree to process calls in the manner required by the Federal Government as detailed in the Federal Relay contract. I agree to abide by this Code of Ethics even after my employment with Sprint and/or subcontractor ends.

Employee/Subcontractor Signature Date	<del></del>
Supervisor Signature Date	_
Company Name (Print or Type)	<del></del>
Service Type (check one)  Captioned Telephone/CapTel Relay Conference Captioning/RCC Telecommunications Relay Service/TRS and/or Internet Relay (a.k.a. Federal Relay (a.k.a. Fe	eral IP Relay)
Note: All of Sprint's Employees and subcontractors working on this contract will applicable portions of FIRMP, the Privacy Act of 1974, and the Freedom of	

implementing regulations and policies. The employees and subcontractors will also be given copies of the following criminal and civil disclosure and inspection penalties, in full text, IRC 7213, IRC 7213A, and IRC

#### **Appendix D: Disaster Recovery**

Sprint offers emergency options and uninterruptible power that exceeds the State's minimum requirements by offering an end-to-end approach that is unmatched in the relay industry. Sprint has emergency operations and uninterruptible power systems (UPS) supporting relay call centers, the TRS switches (located at wireline switch sites). Sprint knows a large-scale loss of commercial power is one of the most critical factors impacting access to communication. We have proven programs to keep that from impacting relay services. Both TRS and CapTel offer uninterruptible power supplies and generators to ensure relay users will continue to have access to the service in the event of power outages.

#### **Call Center Power Solutions**

Sprint provides a cost effective solution with a UPS using a combination of standard battery backup and an auxiliary generator to provide uninterrupted power for an unlimited duration for key components.

- The switch peripherals
- Switch room environment, including:
- Air conditioning, if required to maintain service
- Fire suppression systems
- Emergency lights and system alarms
- CA consoles/ terminals
- CA work site emergency lights
- Call Detail Recording (CDR)

Sprint ensures the UPS system capacity is sufficient to operate the call center during busy season and busy hour load. Sprint has installed power-generating equipment capable of operating call centers for extended periods. In the event of a power outage, the UPS and back-up power generator ensure seamless power transition until normal power is restored. UPS is used only long enough for the backup power generators to come on line – a matter of minutes. Backup power generators are supplied with sufficient fuel to maintain operations for at least 24 hours. Generators can stay in service for longer periods of time as long as fuel is supplied. As a safety precaution (in case of a fire during a power failure), the fire suppression system is not electrically powered. Once the back-up generator is on line, stable power is established and maintained to all TRS system equipment and facility environmental controls until commercial power is restored.

#### **Emergency Procedures Training**

All Sprint Relay employees are trained on emergency procedures to minimize or prevent disruption to relay users. Sprint instructs its staff on the procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency or service impacting issue. Sprint provides annual training to ensure familiarity with systems and processes. Ad-hoc training is conducted for new procedures or team members.

Sprint's response organizations use exercises to evaluate plans, educate personnel, test functions, and operational capability. Information related to these exercises is propriety to Sprint. Additionally, as part of the nation's critical infrastructure, Sprint participates in coordinated situation drills with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and state emergency management agencies to ensure coordinated preparedness and response during a disaster.

\* Tabletop Exercises: In a round-table setting, members of the response team meet to discuss responsibilities and describe how to react as a team in an emergency.

- Walk-Through Drills: Both the response team and management perform their emergency functions within the emergency response location.
- Functional Drills: Tests designed to target specific functional processes within the recovery plan such as notification, response, communications, documentation, and team cohesiveness. Often, these functions are tested separately to help identify improvement areas and to eliminate confusion.
- Full-scale Exercises: Exercises simulated to be as close as possible to a real-life disaster.
   They may involve a combination of response teams, management, field operations, and outside agencies.
- After Action Reviews (AARs): Following an incident or an exercise, an AAR is conducted to ask participants to identify areas of success and improvement. These are documented as Lessons Learned and tracked to satisfactory completion.
- Maturity: Sprint uses an internally developed Maturity Model for benchmarking the Business Continuity Program success and progress. The model is based on the Capability Maturity Model as developed by Carnegie Mellon University.

#### **Business Continuity**

Industry accepted principles are the basis for Sprint's BC program. Sprint has adopted key principles from standards set by organizations such as the Disaster Recovery Institute International (DRII), ASIS Organizational Resilience Standard, FEMA, Business Continuity Institute (BCI), American National Standards Institute (ANSI), NFPA 1600, International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 27001 and ISO 22301, and several Military Specifications (Mil-Spec) standards. Sprint's Business Continuity Program Overview is reviewed and approved on an annual basis.

Sprint Relay network has a Business Continuity (BC) plan to deal with all types of natural and manmade problems which may prevent calls from reaching the relay center or impact the operation of the TRS platform. The plan identifies how Sprint minimizes impact to relay users and restores relay services. Sprint brings more value when it comes to maintaining operations during natural and manmade events. Sprint's BC methodology and implementation standards are consistent with industrywide best practices and trusted by experts in the field. The Sprint dedicated BC Teams (BCTs) participate in government-provided and private sector training, and maintain certifications from:

- . DDII
- International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM)
- DHS
- Business Continuity Institute (BCI)

Sprint understands the BC challenges faced by government organizations and has designed state relay services accordingly. Sprint has experience in serving more than 160 federal entities and more than 150 military bases worldwide including the Department of Defense (DOD), State/Local Governments, Law Enforcement, and DHS.

Sprint's Business Continuity Management Team works as a customer advocate when large network outages occur. The team works closely with network recovery teams to establish customer prioritization once the backbone, Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) and Critical Life Circuits are re-established.

All departments within Sprint, including the Sprint Relay program, follow these well-established programs to ensure top-notch support for our customers.

#### **Call Center Evacuation Events**

Sprint has plans in place to deal with call center events such as fires. Each call center has a designated Safety Marshal and clear chain of command. As a first step, the situation is identified and the threat is assessed. If evacuation is necessary, the local authorities (e.g., 911) are immediately alerted along with the Call Center Service Assurance Center (CCSA) and the Traffic Management Control Center (TMCC). Call center management and Sprint Corporate Security are also alerted.

Traffic will be re-routed immediately to other call centers not impacted and work with those call centers to increase staffing, as needed. Once the issue is resolved, all communication assistants (CAs) return to the center and the incident is fully documented.

#### **Proactive Measures**

Over the past 26 years, Sprint Relay users have rarely experienced any type of inability to place calls. Sprint's backup capabilities are unmatched in the TRS industry with 6 call centers (including the location at Sprint headquarters in Overland Park, KS) capable of handling TRS calls and multiple switch locations supporting the TRS platform.

Sprint's switches and call centers are staffed with spare positions and platform components to deal with all types of technical issues. The TRS platform offers automated alarming to notify personnel of issues.

Redundancy is built into our infrastructure to deliver outstanding performance for all of our TRS customers. These attributes will ensure functional equivalency for state relay service callers during disasters. The benefits of our leading-edge platform and flexible configuration include:

- Switches, call controllers, and databases are housed in geographically-dispersed locations that conform to "critical" grade physical security requirements. Sprint's switches and peripherals are located at switch sites in telecom bunkers.
- Redundant connections between switch sites, 800 network, and call centers
- If the problem is within Sprint's TRS center, maintenance can usually be performed from Sprint's centralized center, the CCSA.
- Sprint retains hardware spares at each center to allow for the most common type of repair required without the ordering of additional equipment (except for complete loss of a building).
- Centralized routing and reporting systems enables Sprint to treat the entire call center complex as a single virtual call center rather than standalone call centers
- All TRS positions are capable of handling calls for any State customer.
- \* All training seats are configured and immediately ready to take production traffic.
- Sprint has pre-established plans for all types of outages.
- Sprint automatic routes calls away from a center undergoing a service recovery event. For example, if a fire drill forces CAs to evacuate, the call router automatically sends calls to other relay centers.

Sprint has historically been the best at dealing with natural and man-made disasters that have caused outages. With each incident Sprint has managed to be prepared, respond and ensure ongoing service delivery. Sprint's processes as detailed here take into consideration every aspect of an outage and/or natural disaster that includes a higher call volume likelihood due to the natural disaster. Some examples of disasters that affected Sprint facilities in the past are:

Wind burst that blew off a portion of the roof of our Syracuse, NY call center

- Farmer cuts Fiber Optic cable servicing Lubbock, TX when burying a cow
- Hurricanes that impacted call centers in Miami and Jacksonville
- Tornado warnings impacting upper Midwest call centers. One evening, 37 Tornadoes were within range of our call center. Our center had to be evacuated. Sprint continued to provide service without interruption.

These list just a few of the natural and man-made disasters we faced, and with each one we were able to maintain our service levels with the processes we have in place. Our employees are the best at ensuring we maintain these service levels.

#### TRS Data Center Disaster Planning

Sprint has implemented a distributed architecture for interconnection redundancy utilizing dual fiber facilities at all of our switch locations. These main switch locations currently have battery backup as well as permanent generators. In addition, site recovery plans have been developed for all major switch locations, prioritizing available options for relocation, and ensuring agility when faced with disaster recovery issues. Most switches also have tap boxes to readily connect the output of a portable generator in the event of primary generator issues.

#### TRS Winter Preparedness Plan

Sprint has processes in place if a known weather event is encountered. These known contingency plans are designed to mitigate our customers' degradation of service and are maintained by the TMCC. Each service has back-up locations to ensure redundancy.

#### Known Event

- Four days prior TMCC and Ron Peay (Operations Manager) will make a determination as to the severity and number of centers which might be affected.
- Three days prior TMCC and Ron will verify previous day's potential impact and begin calling to non-effected centers to post overtime (OT). All centers will be advised to put a list together of employees who will work overnight and weekends. TMCC will notify John Moore (Manager - Customer Relations) and CCSA of our "game plan"
- Two days prior TMCC will meet with Ron to update impacts and plan. All non-impacted centers will be called to update OT requirements and overnight requests.
- One day prior TMCC will meet with Ron to update impacts and plan.
- Day of Event TMCC will invoke emergency call routing as required. TMCC will be the point
  of contact for all notifications. Affected centers will update TMCC every four hours. TMCC
  will update Ron who will update Business Continuity Manager through executive level.
  Management is also responsible for notifying the Business Continuity Team.

#### **Unknown Event**

The Activation Criteria Plan will be used when either weather or other events cause potential significant (excess of 25 percent) increase in call volumes or one or more TRS call centers is off-line for more than two hours, using the following procedure:

- Automated alarming and/or TRS call center notifies TMCC
- TMCC contact CCSA
- CCSA sends notification to a pre-established distribution list
- CCSA establishes a conference call to work on resolving the issue with impacted groups.

After fix agencies are unable to re-establish center operations – the Business Continuity Plan (BCP) is invoked and Management will notify the Business Continuity Management Team.

#### CapTel-Specific Disaster Recovery Information

CapTel, Inc. (CTI) and Sprint have worked together to develop a complete plan for dealing with all types of natural and man-made problems including but not limited to terrorism and phone line cut accidents. Performance at the CapTel call center is monitored continuously by CTI technicians 24/7. Sprint will be notified by the CapTel Service Center Manager immediately upon determination of any type of natural or man-made problem that causes disruption either:

CapTel has established contingency plans in the event of a complete and extended loss of a CapTel call center. The plan includes a number of steps based on the estimated duration of the outage and takes advantage of the relative short travel time between the Wisconsin CapTel call centers. The first phase is organized to initiate the recovery process within hours and can be fully completed within days. This involves expanding service into available space in the operating call center locations and other CapTel facilities

- All training seats are configured and immediately ready to take production traffic.
- Additional production seats are established in unused and available space within the existing facilities.
- Regular shuttle services are established to transport qualified CapTel CAs and staff from the outage area to and from the expanded facilities.

The recovery plan includes a second phase for extended outages. To support this longer duration, CapTel has identified additional disaster recovery locations with appropriate facilities in the metropolitan area of each of the call centers.

The addition of the Orlando, FL and Sprint's TRS/CapTel call centers has alleviated many of the inclement weather challenges presented by the winter season. However, if inclement weather affects the CapTel staffs' ability to arrive to work, in most cases, with minor adjustments, CTI can still meet the call volume demand with enough staff coverage in a wide range of snow fall amounts. However, if necessary, Sprint and CTI will institute proven tactics, as necessary, to motivate, encourage, and enable CapTel CAs to be present or to pick up additional hours so CTI can meet its service level requirements during inclement weather

#### **Customer Notification Procedures**

Sprint will inform the state contract manager of any major interruptions to the TRS/CapTel service that exceeds five minutes in duration or isolates part of the state. To provide the contract manager with the most complete and timely information on problems affecting relay service, Sprint's trouble reporting procedure for TRS and CapTel includes multiple levels of response:

- Immediate notification of events that last 5 minutes or isolate part of the State
- Notification when the issue is resolved and/or status updates (every 24 hours)
- Comprehensive final report within 3 days

Within 24 hours of the Relay service disruption, an intermediate report provides problem status and more detail of what action is necessary. In most cases, the 24-hour report reveals the problem has been corrected and full relay service has been restored. The state contract manger (or designate) will receive this notification from your Sprint Customer Relationship Manager (CRM). He/she and/or a member of the management team will provide the final report and follow up on steps Sprint will take to ensure we can minimize the likelihood of this event occurring again.

Final reports include a comprehensive look at the event, including the following:

How the problem occurred

- When the problem occurred
- The number of impacted customers (if known)
- What was required to correct the problem
- Time and date the relay service resumed full operation
- Avoidance plan for future (if applicable)

#### Temporary Delay Message

If approved by the state, Sprint can also provide a temporary delay message for TRS users that is turned on only when long hold times may occur as a result of weather or other event impacting service. For example, if there were a terrorist attack or natural disaster that significantly increased the number of calls to the relay center, Sprint can add a temporary recording that alerts voice and TTY users, such as: "THE RELAY CENTER IS EXPERIENCING LONGER THAN NORMAL HOLD TIMES. PLEASE HOLD FOR THE NEXT AVAILABLE CA OR TRY YOUR CALL AGAIN LATER."

#### Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP)

All of Sprint's circuits supporting TRS and CapTel services have qualified for priority restoration under the TSP program. Sprint's participation in the TSP Program strengthens our robust reliability. If a national or regional emergency causes service to be disrupted and the call center cannot receive or place calls, Sprint's participation in the TSP program means Local Exchange Carriers (LECs) would be required to restore service as rapidly as possible consistent with the priority status assigned. Sprint's reliable network and TSP participation ensures Sprint's disaster recovery ability is unmatched by any Relay provider in the world.

rvice - Residential .... 1 ... 1211

Veb Site

24 hours a day

name or address anywhere in the ind Canada

# 1-4-1-1 for the USA, Puerto Rico & Canada tool

more area codes to look up...or lengthy 555 dialing. If you need Directory Assistance, simply dial 1-4-1-1 for any number, name or address...anywhere in the USA, Puerto Rico and Canadal

## Text Telephone



(previously known as Telecommunications

Customers with special needs, such as hearing-impaired users with teletypewriter service: Contact the TDD Operator for your state and select from the options below:

for to call ... (SBD) Triangle ...... al Customers

ife: You must have a Telecommunical eventer to communicate with the above



Telephone, Blectric, Gas, Private Water Company Problems Company Problems \*\* \*\* \*\*\*\*

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Monday - Friday

1-800-386-6428 if you have a serious or ongoing problem with any of the Emergency number for the refusal or improper \* \* \* TE disconnection of electric or gas service

above services, you can call the numbers listed, or write to: MS Public Service Commission Consumer Services Division



fryou have talled to the Repair Depring Or Costonies Service and are in completely satisfied, contact

Operations Manage Office: 348-2045 Harian Gallowsy

#### **Consumer Need to Know Information**

#### Mississippi Telecommunications Relay Service

This service allows customers who use text telephones to communicate with others. A special operator, called a Communication Assistant (CA), translates text messages into speech for non-text telephone users and vice versa.

Customers may place a call through the relay center by calling toll free 7-1-1, 1-800-855-1000 (Voice), 1-800-582-2233 (TTY) or 1-800-855-1234 [ASCII (PC)] and providing the Communication Assistant the necessary information to set up the call, including the carrier of choice on calls outside the Calling Zone.

#### Public Telephone Calls Using Relay Services

People who use relay services to make long distance calls on pay telephones may pay for these calls with a calling card. A calling card allows you to have calls billed to your telephone or to your card account. Calling cards may be used at coin telephones as well as any other telephone. The calls are billed at the same rate as long distance calling card calls that do not use relay services.

Local calls through a relay service from a pay telephone are free of charge.

#### **TTY Operator/Directory Assistance**

Call 1-800-855-4000 (TTY\* only. Nationwide service is provided by Sprint)

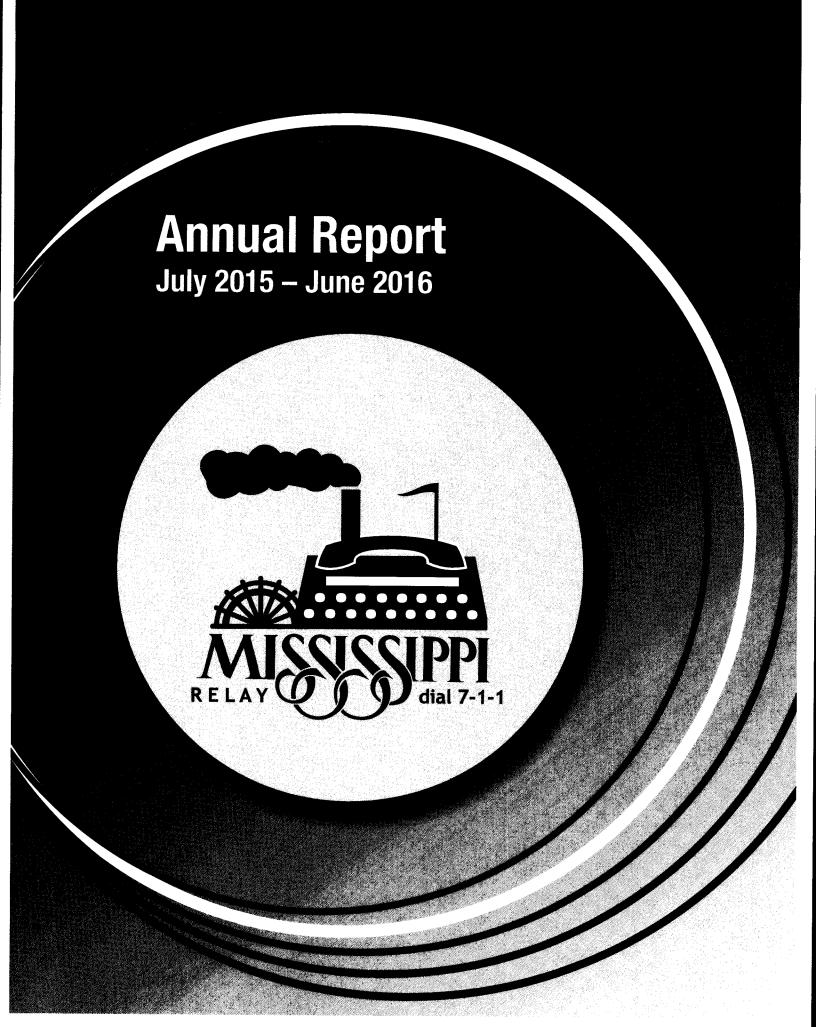
#### **AT&T Contact**

	Residence	Business
ATAT MISSISSIPPI		
Establishing Phone Service (att.com/newservice)	1-800-288-2020	1- <del>666-62</del> 0- <del>6</del> 000
Repair (24/7 or repair.att.com)	1-877-737-2478	1-866-620-6900
Billing (att.com/pay)	1-800-288-2020	1-666-620-6000

#### **Public Utility Commission Contact**

The Mississippi Public Service Commission regulates AT&T Mississippi and other utilities and is located at P.O. Box 1174, Jackson, MS 39215-1174.

Main Number:	Northern District Complaint Number:	In-State Toll-Free Number:
601-961-5400	601-661-5450	1-800-356-6428
Main Number:	Central District Complaint Number:	in-State Toil-Free Number:
601-961-5400	601-961-5442	1-800-356-6430
Mein Number:	Southern District Complaint Number:	In-State Toll-Free Number:
601-961-5400	601-961-5440	1-800-356-6429



## Make calls anytime.

CONTENTS

From the Customer Relations Manager I Outreach and Deliverables

Mississippi Relay Statistics

**Sprint Relay News** 

**Sprint Relay Team** 

**Appendices** 



2013: Recertified by the Federal Communications Commission until 2018.

2014: Awarded contract extension through June 30, 2017.

Attended 120 events in 41 cities, educating over 60,000 people.

2015: Sprint Relay celebrated 25 years.

2016: Revamped Mississippi Relay website.

2013

RECERTIFIED BY THE FCC FOR FIVE YEARS.

2015

SPRINT RELAY CELEBRATED 25 YEARS.

2016

REVAMPED MISSISSIPPI RELAY WEBSITE.



#### Dear Mississippi Public Service Commission:

Sprint Relay is appreciative of the opportunity to provide relay services, education, and customer support to Mississippi consumers from July 2015 to June 2016.

With support from the Mississippi Relay outreach specialists, Mississippi Relay activities included exhibitions at:

- Tyson Food Health Fair in Forest; 500 attended.
- Senior Day at the State Fair in Jackson; 1,000 attended.
- Mississippi Speech-Hearing-Language Association three-day conference in Jackson; 300 attended.
- National Association of Social Workers (NASW) three-day conference in Biloxi; 300 attended.
- Mississippi Early Detection and Intervention Program (EHDI-MS) in Jackson; 100 attended.
- Mississippi Disability Mega Conference in Jackson; 500 attended.

#### Mississippi Relay accomplishments included:

- Acquiring an Outreach Experts, Inc., outreach specialist for CapTel phone and service education.
- Revamping the Mississippi Relay website.
- Lending 326 pieces of specialized equipment to consumers.
- Working with an intern for three days from the Mississippi School for the Deaf, in partnership with the Dept. of Vocational Rehabilitative Services.

#### Session minutes this fiscal year showed:

- TTY: A significant decrease of 18.2%, or 30,315 minutes
- Speech-to-Speech: An increase of 367%, or 1,867 minutes
- CapTel: A decrease of 8.8%, or 43,276 minutes

With each year, the number of TRS users has consistently declined. This reporting year saw 20,247 TRS users, a significant decrease of 26.6% or 7,350 fewer users, compared to last year.

Sprint Relay continued to provide excellent customer support and customer satisfaction for TRS and CapTel, as evidenced by only a single TRS complaint and no CapTel complaints by consumers.

To ensure continued compliance with consumers statewide and nationwide, I completed mandatory trainings and testings provided by Sprint on topics such as complying with ethics, maintaining professional conduct during work activities, avoiding conflicts of interest, and securing customer proprietary network information. I also became certified after completing the Federal Communications Commission's Internet Protocol CapTel Service Consent Decree course.

Thanks go to the Mississippi Public Service Commission, the Mississippi Relay Equipment Distribution Program coordinator, the CapTel outreach specialist, and the Mississippi Relay users for allowing us to provide services.

With appreciation,

Nother Biles

Nathan Burleson

Customer Relations Manager I



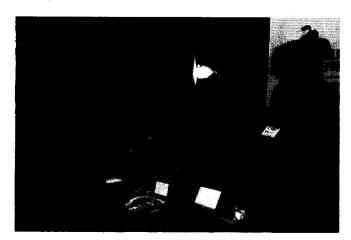
## **OUTREACH & DELIVERABLES**

The Mississippi Relay manager, Equipment Distribution Program coordinator, and outreach specialist promoted relay service awareness through product and service demonstrations, exhibitions, presentations, and information dissemination throughout the state, and via the revamped www.mississippirelay.com website. Activities focused on traditional TRS, Speech-to-Speech (STS), and CapTel. Some highlights from this reporting year include:

- Armed Forces retirement home in Gulfport; 30 attended.
- Tyson Food Health Fair in Forest; 500 attended.
- Mississippi Association of Housing and Redevelopment three-day conference in Biloxi; 400 attended.
- Mississippi Association of the Deaf picnic in Hattiesburg; 125 attended
- Senior Day at the State Fair in Jackson; 1,000 attended.
- Mississippi Department of Education Office of Special Education in Jackson; 100 attended.
- Mississippi Speech-Hearing-Language Association three-day conference in Jackson; 300 attended.
- National Association of Social Workers three-day conference in Biloxi; 300 attended.
- Mississippi Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program n Jackson; 100 attended.
- Mississippi Disability Mega Conference in Jackson; 500 attended.

The Mississippi Relay outreach team also went to places of worships, senior centers, county fairs, and senior living complexes. Towns where outreach education was provided included:

- Batesville
- Biloxi
- Brookhaven
- Clinton
- Forest
- Gulfport
- Hattiesburg
- Holly Springs
- Jackson
- Pearl
- Port Gibson
- Senatobia
- Vicksburg





#### Personnel

An Outreach Specialist from the Outreach Experts, Inc. (OEI), team was brought onboard in 2015. This individual, who resides in Jackson, promotes education throughout the state about Internet-based CapTeI phones and services. OEI and Mississippi Relay operate on a separate plan and budget.

For three days in June, Mississippi Relay worked with an intern (at left) from the Mississippi School for the Deaf in partnership with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitative Services. The high school senior assisted with filing, packing and shipping equipment, organizing the storage room, setting up the exhibition booth, and identifying on a map the towns of where applications came from.

#### **Public Service Announcements**

During this reporting year, two 30-second public service announcements (PSAs) about the CapTel and the Spanish CapTel phone and service were developed, produced, and reviewed for broadcasts in the winter of 2016-2017.

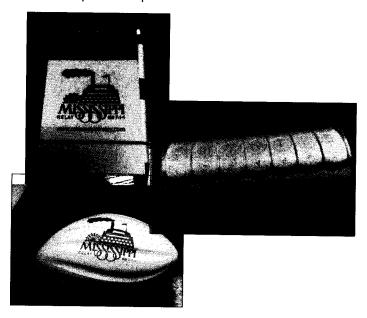
#### **Equipment Distribution Program**

To borrow equipment at no charge, such as a specific assistive device or a mobile wireless device, customers may complete an application. An on-site equipment distribution program coordinator is available to assist with the application process. See Figure 1 for a breakdown by equipment.

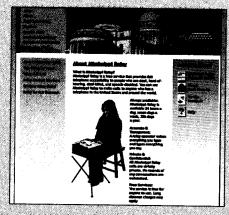
Fig. 1: Distributed Equipment					
CapTel 840	Clarity Cordless Phone D704	2			
CapTel 840i	6	Clarity D714 Amplified Cordless Phone	3		
CapTel 880i	1	Ultratec Miniprint 425 TTY	1		
CapTel 2400i	57	Ultratec Uniphone 1140 TTY	5		
Wireless Devices	25	Clarity XLc3.4 Combo Cordless Phone	i		
Sonic Ring Jr. Tr50	135	Clarity Xlc Clarity	3		

#### **Promotional Items**

Promotional items were distributed at outreach events as an educational and exciting way to share information about Mississippi Relay services. Promotional items included footballs, notepads, and pill holders.

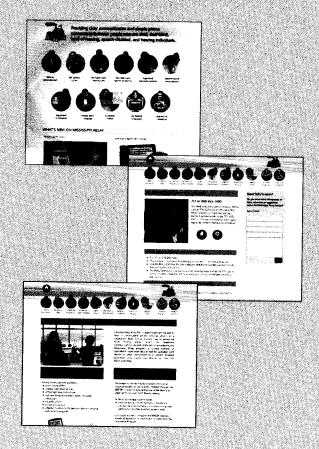


#### Website



The Mississippi Relay website, at www. mississippirelay.com, provides information and videos explaining how calls are handled, outlines the Mississippi Relay Equipment Distribution Program (MREDP), and has additional resources.

After months of preparation, updates, and revisions, the Mississippi Relay website was completely revamped in January 2016. The website uses HTML5, which conforms to the latest technological standards, and is also mobile-, tablet-, and desktop-friendly.



## MISSISSIPPI RELAY STATISTICS

**Telecommunications Relay Service** 

The following information indicates the trends in the annual total number of session minutes, Speech-to-Speech minutes, calls placed by end users, calling trends, call origination, average speed of answer and service level, and contacts with customers. The numbers reflect the traditional relay services (such as TTY, Voice, Spanish TTY and Voice, Voice Carry-Over [VCO], Telebraille, and Speech-to-Speech [STS]) currently provided by Mississippi Relay.

#### **TRS Session Minutes**

Figure 2 indicates the total monthly session minutes processed through Mississippi Relay. The total of 136,306 minutes includes all aspects of TRS services including interstate, interstate directory assistance, international, toll-free, and 900 numbers. Speech-to-Speech and CapTel minutes are reported separately.

This represents a decrease of 18.2%, or 30,315 minutes, compared to the previous year.

#### Fig. 2: Session Minutes

July	11,518	January	11,862
August	11,137	February	9,726
September	12,293	March	10,436
October	12,699	April	10,573
November	12,626	May .	11,725
December	11,262	June	10,450

#### **Speech-to-Speech Session Minutes**

This fiscal year contained 2,376 Speech-to-Speech (STS) session minutes, which represents an increase of 367%, or 1,867 minutes, compared to the previous year. See Figure 3 for a monthly breakdown of STS minutes processed through Mississippi Relay.

#### Fig. 3: STS Minutes

July	367	January	178
August	74	February	121
September	200	March	231
October	8	April	49
November	35	May	231
December	126	June	758

#### **Total Number of Calls Placed**

The Total Number of Calls Placed (by end users) is the number of calls handled by the Communication Assistant. The numbers of calls shown in Fig. 4 include General Assistance calls (inbound calls that do not have an outbound leg); Busy Ring No Answer calls (outbound call attempts that do not result in a completed call); Completed calls (outbound calls that result in the inbound caller connecting with an end user). For this reporting period, there was a total of 52,928 relayed calls, representing a decrease of 22.7%, or 15,503 fewer calls, compared to the previous year.

#### Fig. 4: Total Number of Calls Placed

July	4,704	January	4,791
August	4,441	February	3,560
September	4,389	March	4,155
October	4,903	April	3,937
November	4,547	May	4,742
December	4,637	June	4,122

**Calling Trends** 

Voice

8%

Figure 5 indicates where Mississippi TRS calls originated during May 2015. The highest concentrations are shown in red, then yellow, then green.

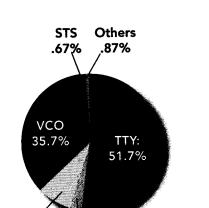


Fig. 6: Call Origination

TC

3%

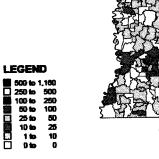


Fig. 5: Calling Trends

**Call Origination** 

On average, TTY and TurboCode consumers originated approximately 55% of Mississippi Relay calls. Figure 6 shows call type by percentage.

#### Average Speed of Answer and Service Level

Figure 7 illustrates that Sprint has exceeded the speed of answer requirement throughout the year. "Speed of answer" identifies the number of seconds required to answer a call. Mississippi Relay's daily requirement is that 85% of all calls are answered within 10 seconds. The Average Speed of Answer (ASA) for the first half of this fiscal year was 1.6 seconds and the Service Level (SVL) was that 95.7% of calls were answered within 10 seconds.

Fig. 7: ASA and SVL

Month	ASA	SVL	Month	ASA	SVL
July	1.2	96%	January	1.6	95%
August	1.2	96%	February	1.4	96%
September	1.5	95%	March	.9	98%
October	1.9	94%	April	.9	98%
November	3.0	92%	May	.8	98%
December	4.3	92%	June	.8	98%

**FCC Annual Consumer Contact Log** 

Sprint prepares and submits an annual Consumer Contact Log Report on both TRS and CapTel from June 2015 to May 2016 to the Mississippi Public Service Commission administration, which then submits the report to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). During this reporting year, there were no TRS commendations, one TRS complaint, and 335 TRS inquiries.

#### **CapTel**

The following information indicates the trends of the annual total number of session minutes, call volume, calling trends, and contacts with customers provided by Mississippi Relay.

#### **Session Minutes**

A breakdown of monthly session minutes is shown in Figure 8. This fiscal year's CapTel session minutes totaled 448,171. This represents a decrease of 8.8%, or 43,276 minutes, compared to the previous year.

Fig. 8: CapTel Session Minutes

July	40,521	January	35,772
August	40,333	February	32,116
September	36,749	March	38,344
October	40,332	April	36,349
November	39,595	May	37,261
December	40,994	June	29,806

Fig. 9: CapTel Call Volume

July	12,743	January	9,997
August	12,436	February	9,815
September	11,786	March	11,434
October	11,582	April	11,674
November	10,821	May	12,112
December	11,394	June	10,644

#### **Call Volume**

A total of 136,438 CapTel calls were generated this fiscal year. A breakdown of monthly call volume is displayed in Figure 9, which represents a decrease of 12.4%, or 19,280 calls, from last year.

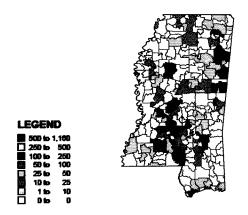


Fig. 10: CapTel Calling Trends

#### **Calling Trends**

Figure 10 indicates where Mississippi CapTel calls originated during May 2015. The highest concentrations are shown in red, then yellow, then green.

#### **FCC Annual Consumer Contact Log**

Sprint prepares and submits an annual Consumer Contact Log Report on both TRS and CapTel from June 2015 to May 2016 to the Mississippi Public Service Commission administration, which then submits the report to the FCC. During this reporting year, there were 3 CapTel commendations, 0 CapTel complaints, and 57 CapTel inquiries.

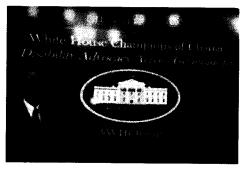
## **SPRINT RELAY NEWS**

Sprint continuously strives to enhance relay products and services to bring an even better experience to all relay customers. This is possible through feedback, implementation, testing, and usage by consumers and team members.

White House Champion of Change Award
Sprint is proud to share that Mike Ellis, National Director for Sprint Relay, received

Sprint is proud to share that Mike Ellis, National Director for Sprint Relay, received the White House Champions of Change for Disability Advocacy across Generations award on July 27 at a ceremony at the White House. Ellis has worked for 23 years to advance accessible technology and ensure individuals with disabilities have the resources necessary to succeed in their business and personal lives.

Under his leadership, Sprint has developed a long-term commitment to empowering people with disabilities and ensuring they are included within the workplace, customer base, and the telecom industry. As a result of this commitment, Sprint was recently honored by the Disability Equality IndexSM survey as "One of the Best Places to Work for Disability Inclusion Policies and Practices."



SPRINT RELAY
EXHIBITED AT 71
NATIONAL TRADESHOWS,
REACHING 204,500
PEOPLE

#### **National Tradeshows**

Sprint Relay continues to have a highly visible presence at local, state, and national tradeshows. Attending tradeshows such as NASRA, TEDPA, Big E, and M-Enabling is a great opportunity for attendees to learn how they can improve communication access. Exhibits and presentations provide attendees the chance to learn about advancements in the relay industry. Customer testimonials and product demonstrations at these events provide a unique opportunity for users to see first-hand how various communication options can improve their lives.

#### **Audiologist Kits**

In 2015, Sprint created the Hearing Health Professionals' CapTel Kit for medical professionals to introduce Sprint CapTel services to their patients. Each kit includes a Third Party Certification form, a demonstration CapTel phone, brochures and a stand for waiting rooms, and more. Professionals interested in a kit can request one at http://professionals.sprintcaptel.com.





#### **Newsletter**

In September 2015, the STARS newsletter was distributed to all Sprint Relay state contract administrators. The six-page newsletter contained a letter from the Sprint Relay National Director Mike Ellis, an article on disability inclusion, a summary of a new relay employee who works in the blind/low vision community, testimonial videos from CapTel users, an

videos from CapTel users, an overview of long-distance billing, customer service training with Gallaudet University staff, upcoming relay-related meetings, and other topics.

#### **Un Nuevo Dia**

In February 2016, Sprint Relay was represented in a technology segment interview on a leading Spanish-language morning show, Un Nuevo Día (A New Day). This segment was broadcast on Telemundo, NBC's national Hispanic network. During this live interview, Sprint Relay demonstrated products, services and plans to a very engaged studio audience.

#### CapTel Call Center

In March 2016, a sixth CapTel Call Center was opened in Tampa, Florida.

#### **CapTel Newsletter**

Each month, CapTel distributes its newsletter to users of the CapTel phone and service. These newsletters contain helpful tips for the various CapTel phone models, stories about event participation, details of upcoming events, and testimonials.



#### **STARS Conference**

Sprint sponsors an annual conference for State Telecommunication Administrators of Relay by Sprint (STARS). The conference is an ideal forum to discuss current FCC rules and upcoming industry trends; product and service reviews; TRS and CapTel platforms; presentations by company representatives from the media, captioning, and CapTel industries; and promote idea exchanges among state relay administrators. This year's STARS conference was held in Florida in June 2016.

#### Spanish Language Facebook

Page

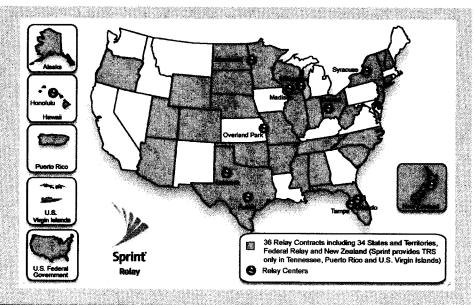
Sprint Relay is pleased to have increasing resources available in

Spanish. In June 2016, Sprint Relay posted its first post on the Sprint Latino Facebook page.



## SPRINT RELAY ACCOUNTS

Sprint provides relay services for 36 states, territories, and commonwealths, along with Federal Relay and New Zealand.



## **SPRINT RELAY TEAM**

Mike Ellis

Global Director — Accessibility

Maggie Schoolar

Corporate Sales

Jeff Branch
Account Executive

John Moore

National Customer Relations Manager

Kris Owara

Billing Analyst

**Nate Burleson** 

Customer Relations Manager I

**Mark Tauscher** 

Business Development/Project Management

Liz D'Anna

Implementation Program Manager

Brian Adamson

National Customer Service Supervisor

### **OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

Event	City JULY	Date	Attendance	Presentation (P), Outreach (O), Booth (B)
Catholic Diocese of Biloxi	Gulfport	1	50	P-B
Gulf Coast Community Ministries	Biloxi	1	25	P-B
Armed Forces Retirement Home	Gulfport	21	30	P-B
Disability Support Services @ Jackson State University	Jackson	24	1	Р
University of Southern Mississippi- Audiology/Speech Pathology	Hattiesburg	24	12	P-B
	AUGUST			
Exchange Club Fair	Brookhaven	7	35	P-B
Jackson Mississippi National Association of Social Workers	Jackson	11	80	В
Magnolia Manor Apartments	Vicksburg	12	15	P-B
Tyson Food Health Fair	Forest	13	500	В
Mississippi Association of Housing & Redevelopment (MAHRO)	Biloxi	19	400	В
MAHRO	Biloxi	20		
MAHRO	Biloxi	21		
Vicksburg Senior Center	Vicksburg	21	6	Р
Morgan White Stanley Senior Expo	Jackson	27	150	В
Mississippi Association of the Deaf Picnic	Hattiesburg	29	125	P-B
	SEPTEMB	ER		
Mississippi Braves 2015 advertising/ sponsorship	Pearl	2		Ad
Beltone Hearing Center	Hattiesburg	8	30	Р
Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Monthly Luncheon	Brookhaven	13	50	P-B
Dubard Symposium at University of Southern Mississippi	Hattiesburg	16	80	В
Dubard Symposium at University of Southern Mississippi	Hattiesburg	17		
Harrison County Resource Agency Workshop	Gulfport	18	20	P-B

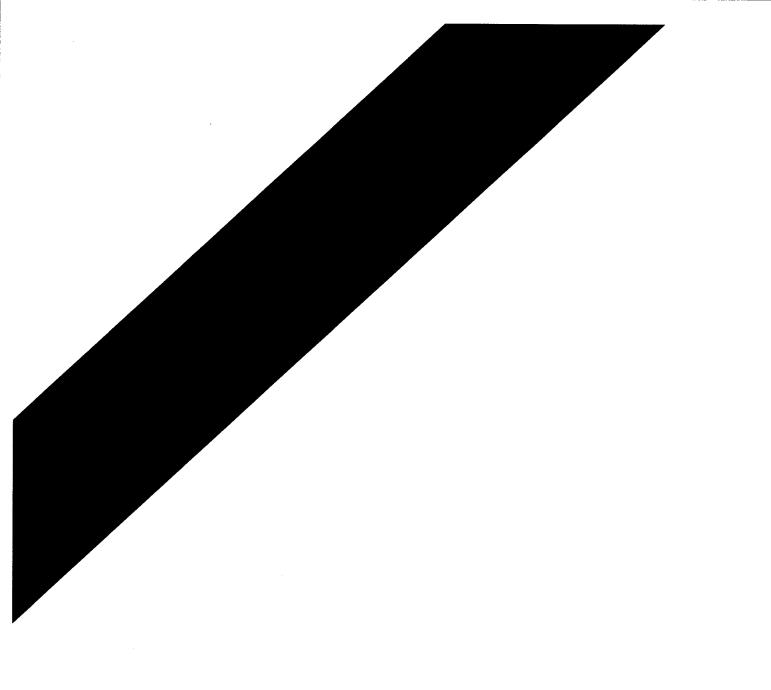
Event	City	Date	Attendance	Presentation (P), Outreach (O), Booth (B)
17th Annual Senior Wellness Festival	Jackson	22	800	В
Tate County Health Fair	Senatobia	29	100	В
	ОСТОВЕ	R		
NRA/SERNA/RAM Conference	Gulfport	5	125	В
NRA/SERNA/RAM Conference	Gulfport	6		
NRA/SERNA/RAM Conference	Gulfport	7		
Senior Day State Fair	Jackson	14	1000	В
Pampering Pink Princess-Breast Cancer	Jackson	17	80	В
Mississippi Grand Gulf Safety Fair	Port Gibson	22	125	В
Mississippi School for the Deaf Homecoming	Jackson	24	100	В
Mississippi College/First Baptist Church - Health Fair	Clinton	27	400	В
22nd Annual Senior Health & Wellness	Jackson	28	800	В
	NOVEMB	ER		
Journey Up Faith & Family Magazine		3		Ad
5th Annual Alzheimer's Conference	Jackson	12	90	В
Harrison County Senior Expo	Gulfport	18	200	P-B
Donald Snyder Community Center	Biloxi	18	75	В
	DECEMBI	R		
Mississippi Coast Association of the Deaf Christmas Party	Gulfport	5	200	Р
	FEBRUAR	Υ		
Jackson State University - Special Center	Jackson	22	5	Р
Mississippi Dept. of Education - Office of Special Education	Jackson	25	100	В
Mississippi Dept. of Education - Office of Special Education	Jackson	26		
Jackson Heart Study - Health Fair	Jackson	27	600	В
	MARCH			
Mississippi Speech Language Hearing Association (MSHA)	Jackson	2	300	В
MSHA	Jackson	3		
MSHA	Jackson	4		
Spring Luncheon hosted by Mississippi Association of the Deaf	Batesville	5	50	B-P
disABILITY Awareness Day	Jackson	10	75	В

Event	City	Date	Attendance	Presentation (P), Outreach (O), Booth (B)			
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)	Biloxi	23	300	В			
NASW	Biloxi	24					
NASW	Biloxi	25					
Early Hearing Detection & Intervention-Mississippi	Jackson	24	100	В			
	APRIL						
Eliza Pillars Registered Nurses of Mississippi	Jackson	2	95	В			
Senior Appreciation Day Health Fair	Clinton	11	200	В			
Community Health Fair	Jackson	16	500	В			
	MAY						
16th Annual Eddie Lee Smith Health Fair	Holly Springs	12	600	В			
	JUNE						
Provision Living of Hattiesburg	Hattiesburg	10	15	Р			
Wesley Manor Senior Apartments	Hattiesburg	10	15	Р			
Brookdale Senior Living 1 & 2	Hattiesburg	10	25	Р			
Forrest General Cancer Center	Hattiesburg	10	15	Р			
Twin Oaks Senior Center	Hattiesburg	10	20	Р			
Senior Citizens Center Collins	Hattiesburg	10	20	Р			
2016 Mississippi Disability Mega Conference	Jackson	16	500	В			
		TOTAL	9,239				

### TRS & CAPTEL STATISTICS

	-			•								······································	<del></del>
	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	ост.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	TOTAL
TTY - Baudot	1,124	1,078	1,185	1,416	1,268	1,225	721	1,098	1,064	1,048	1,102	923	13,252
TTY Spanish-Speaking Users	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TurboCode (TC)	210	93	39	71	87	58	28	58	31	40	34	30	779
TC Spanish-Speaking Users	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ASCII	23	38	1	18	36	4	10	29	4	23	9	23	218
Voice	160	212	230	170	148	159	144	163	173	144	198	149	2,050
Voice Spanish-Speaking Users	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Voice Carryover (VCO)	601	722	762	705	742	911	1,191	322	693	781	992	812	9,234
VCO Spanish-Speaking Users	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hearing Carryover (HCO)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HCO Spanish-Speaking Users	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	О	0	0	0 .	0
DeafBlind Baudot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Speech-to-Speech	28	5	6	1	9	11	14	8	11	6	23	47	169
GRAND TOTAL	2,146	2,148	2,223	2,381	2,290	2,368	2,108	1,678	1,976	2,042	2,358	1,984	25,702
PERCENTAGE OF CALLS - by calling device	-k						-l						
TTY - Baudot	52.38%	50.19%	53.31%	59.47%	55.37%	51.73%	34.20%	65.44%	53.85%	51.32%	46.73%	46.52%	51.71%
TurboCode	9.79%	4.33%	1.75%	2.98%	3.80%	2.45%	1.33%	3.46%	1.57%	1.96%	1.44%	1.51%	3.03%
ASCII	1.07%	1.77%	0.04%	0.76%	1.57%	0.17%	0.47%	1.73%	0.20%	1.13%	0.38%	1.16%	0.87%
Voice	7.46%	9.87%	10.35%	7.14%	6.46%	6.71%	6.83%	9.71%	8.76%	7.05%	8.40%	7.51%	8.02%
vco	28.01%	33.61%	34.28%	29.61%	32.40%	38.47%	56.50%	19.19%	35.07%	38.25%	42.07%	40.93%	35.70%
HCO	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
DeafBlind Baudot	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Speech-to-Speech	1.30%	0.23%	0.27%	0.04%	0.39%	0.46%	0.66%	0.48%	0.56%	0.29%	0.98%	2.37%	0.67%
TOTAL %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
RELAY SERVICE INFORMATION	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	TOTAL
Incoming Calls Offered	3,741	3,567	3,387	3,721	3,445	3,564	3,863	2,946	3,377	3,009	3,714	3,164	41,498
Incoming Calls Answered	3,683	3,504	3,301	3,649	3,333	3,399	3,786	2,872	3,345	2,982	3,692	3,129	40,675
Abandoned in Queue	58	63	86	72	112	165	77	74	32	27	22	35	823
Call Blockage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Calls Placed (by End Users)	4,704	4,441	4,389	4,903	4,547	4,637	4,791	3,560	4,155	3,937	4,742	4,122	52,928
Calls Completed by End Users	1,654	1,705	1,734	1,655	1,714	1,830	1,720	1,310	1,616	1,605	1,782	1,528	19,853
Total Number of Subscribers (Users)	1,959	1,696	1,625	1,811	1,717	1,740	1,949	1,436	1,661	1,465	1,582	1,606	20,247
Average Weekend Calls	98	99	88	91	86	91	113	79	91	81	100	95	1,112
Average Weekday Calls	171	164	167	186	180	170	174	139	149	153	175	153	1,981
SERVICE QUALITY					1				,				1,70
Average Speed of Answer (ASA)	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.9	3.0	4.3	1.6	1.4	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	
Service Level (SVL)	96%	96%	95%	94%	92%	92%	95%	96%	98%	98%	98%	98%	
Complaints: TRS	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Commendations: TRS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Complaints: CapTel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commendations: CapTel	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
RELAY MINUTES OF USE									L				
Total Session Minutes of Service	11,518	11,137	12,293	12,699	12,626	11,262	11,862	9,726	10,436	10,573	11,725	10,450	136,306
Less Interstate Minutes	(402)	(462)	(565)	(835)	(983)	(542)	(1,583)	(426)	(851)	(747)	(584)	(577)	(8,557)
Less International Minutes	0	(8)	0	0	(3)	(1)	(1)	0	0	0	(1)	(8)	(22)
Less Interstate Toll-Free Minutes (51%)	(1,403)	(1,233)	(1,290)	(1,723)	(1,531)	(1,149)	(1,585)	(1,169)	(905)	(1,306)	(1,786)	(1,587)	(16,667)
Less Interstate Directory Assistance	0	(25)	0	(67)	(5)	0	6	0	0	(7)	0	(0)	(99)
Less 900 Minutes (51%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Billable Intrastate Relay Session Minutes	9,713	9,409	10,437	10,074	10,104	9,571	8,687	8,131	8,680	8,513	9,354	8,275	110,947
	7,7.13	1.7.77	10,50,	1 .0,0,7	1 .0,,04	/,5/1	1 0,007	3,131	3,000	3,313	/,554	0,273	10,747

	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	ОСТ.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	TOTAL
SPEECH-TO-SPEECH													
Total Speech-to-Speech Session Minutes	367	74	200	8	35	126	178	121	231	49	231	758	2,376
Less Interstate Minutes	(161)	(28)	(100)	(2)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(291)
Billable Intrastate STS Session Minutes	207	46	100	6	35	86	116	76	123	25	132	396	1,345
BILLABLE USAGE											•		
Total Relay and Speech-to-Speech Minutes	9,920	9,455	10,537	10,079	10,138	9,657	8,803	8,207	8,802	8,537	9,486	8,670	112,292
CARTO, MEDRICH CIV													
Call Count	12,743	12,436	11,786	11,582	10,821	11,394	9,997	9,815	11,434	11,674	12,112	10,644	136,438
Average Session Minutes Per Call	3.18	3.24	3.12	3.48	3.66	3.60	3.58	3.27	3.35	3.11	3.08	2.80	39.47
Average Speed of Answer (ASA)	0.46	0.45	0.53	0.56	0.55	0.55	0.52	0.48	0.46	0.49	0.51	0.49	
Service Level (SVL)	99.61%	99.66%	99.68%	99.24%	99.73%	99.56%	99.73%	99.75%	99.43%	99.40%	99.47%	99.73%	
Total CapTel Session Minutes	40,521	40,333	36,749	40,332	39,595	40,994	35,772	32,116	38,344	36,349	37,261	29,806	448,171
Less Interstate Session Minutes	(6,374)	(5,962)	(5,215)	(5,588)	(6,416)	(5,860)	(5,510)	(4,837)	(5,876)	(6,130)	(5,640)	(4,214)	(67,623)
Billable Intrastate CapTel Minutes	32,499	32,342	30,125	33,241	28,574	33,352	28,458	25,802	30,943	28,921	30,459	24,372	359,089



Publication Services provided by

## T.S. WRITING SERVICES, LLC

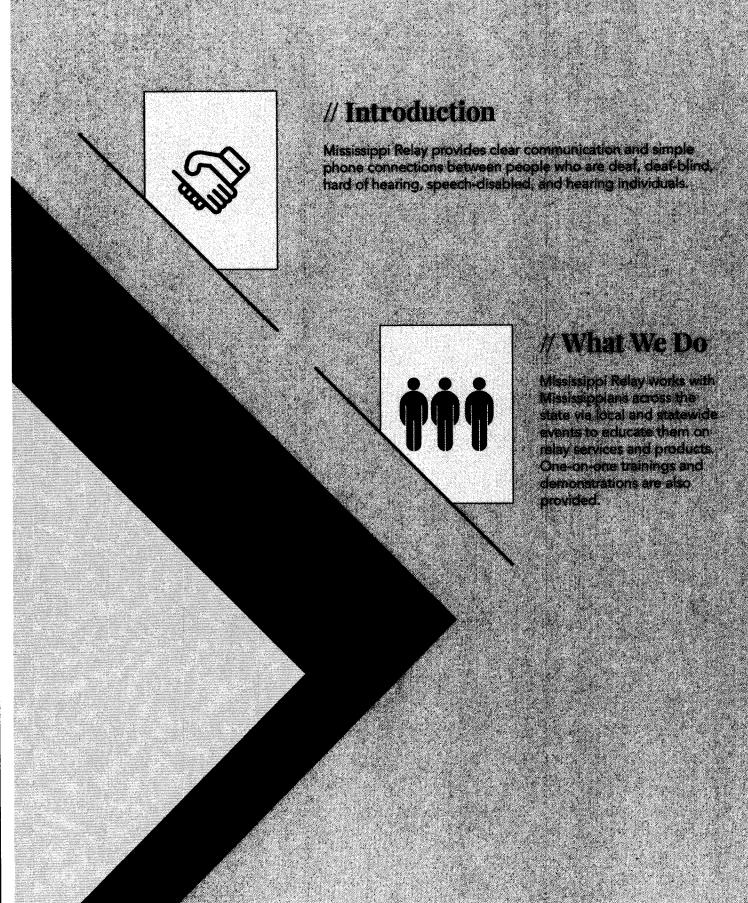
# Annual Report



JULY 2016-JUNE 2017

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Sprint Accessibility News & Enhancements	11
Sprint Accessibility Team	15
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# Mississippi Relay









ktonded ciko events in 41 citie iducabling over 60,000 people.

Calebrated 25 years of Sprint Relay/Sprint Accessibility services:

Reversed the Mississippi Relay website: Sprint Relay earns top nonpre from Costilics in "efficiency, compliance with FCC standards, an overall gustomer care."

Received zero comptaints for both TRS and Capital services during the Federal Communications Commission's reporting year.

## A year of significant progress

Sprint Accessibility is pleased to present this 2017 annual report outlining telecommunications relay services, CapTel service quality, and outreach education to Mississippi consumers. We are appreciative of the 2017-2020 contract Mississippi Public Service Commission has awarded Sprint.

Outreach efforts for Mississippi Relay reached 7,550 Mississippians through 34 exhibitions and presentations in 18 towns (with repeat visits to two towns). We received support from an Outreach Experts, Inc., CapTel Outreach Specialist as well. We also marketed Mississippi Relay in various publications, and via our website at www.mississippirelay.com.

We exceeded the TRS and CapTel average speed of answer and service level requirements (see pages 9-10), and received no complaints from any of our customers. Through the Equipment Distribution Program, nearly 325 pieces of equipment were distributed to qualifying Mississippi residents, including alert devices, CapTel phones, speakerphones, voice carry-over phones, wireless devices, and TTYs.

Mississippi Relay session minutes this fiscal year showed:

- TTY-based calls: A decrease of 16.9%, or 22,992 minutes
- **Speech-to-Speech**: An increase of 145.4%, or 3,454 minutes
- CapTel: A decrease of 19.3%, or 86,251 minutes

Sprint thanks the Mississippi Public Service Commission; the Mississippi Relay Equipment Distribution Program Coordinator, Mississippi Relay Outreach Specialist; Outreach Experts, Inc. Outreach Specialist; and state relay users for the opportunity to provide the best possible in relay services, education, and customer support.

Respectfully,

Alice Berry

Customer Relations Manager

Sprint Accessibility

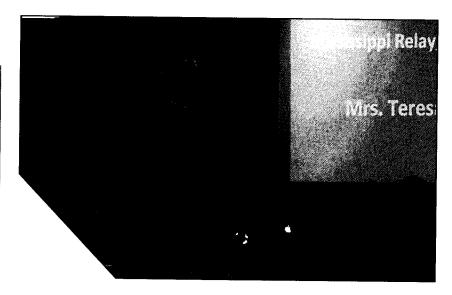
Alice Ber

O: (501) 221-1285 VP: (501) 246-8227

alice.berry@sprint.com

# Outreach Education & Deliverables

"I would highly recommend you to explain anything to anyone. You explained everything so patiently and in a way anyone could understand."



The Mississippi Relay Customer Relations Manager, Equipment Distribution Program Coordinator, and Outreach Specialist promoted relay service awareness through product and service demonstrations, exhibitions, presentations, trainings, event contributions, and information dissemination throughout the state, and via the www.mississippirelay.com website. Activities focused on traditional TRS and CapTel at 34 events in 18 towns.

See appendix for full outreach list.

## **Outreach Experts, Inc.**

An outreach specialist from the Outreach Experts, Inc., team continued to partner with Sprint to promote education throughout the state about Internet Protocol (IP) CapTel phones and service. During this fiscal year this OEI Outreach Specialist, who resides in Jackson, exhibited at the:

- Social Workers' Conference in Richland in March
- Senior Appreciation Day in Clinton in April
- Rankin County Health Fair in Brandon in May

The OEI Outreach Specialist also performed installations and provided one-on-one training about the CapTel phones. OEI and Mississippi Relay operate on a separate plan and budget.

## A Quick Look at the Numbers

34 exhibitions and presentations

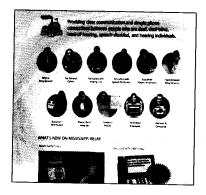
Reaching 7,550 Mississippians

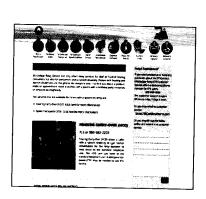
in 18 towns.

Towns included:

Bay St. Louis Biloxi Clinton Flowood Forest Gulfpert Hattiesburg Holly Springs Long Beach

jackson
Madison
Natchez
Ocean Springs
Pearl
Raymond
Starkville
Vicksburg
Waynesboro

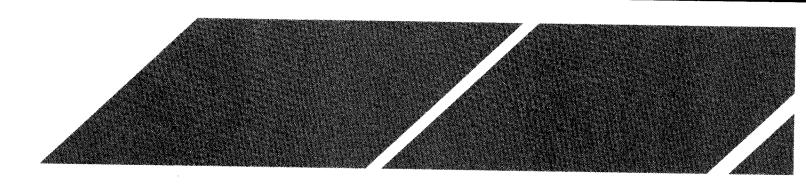


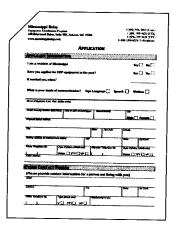


## Website

The Mississippi Relay website, at www.mississippirelay.com, provides information and videos explaining how calls are handled, presents information about the equipment distribution service, explains FederalRelay, and has additional resources.

To monitor trends on the website, the Customer Relations Manager received a monthly statistics report. During this reporting year, there were 2,578 page views.





# Equipment Distribution Program

Mississippi Relay provides specialized equipment for free loan to qualifying Relay consumers. An on-site coordinator is available to assist consumers with the application process. See Figure 1 for specific data on each piece of equipment distributed in this reporting year.

Fig. 1: Distributed Equi	ipment
Signal flashers	129
CapTel 840	117
Wireless devices	33
CapTel 2400i	26
Speakerphones	10
Cordless phones	4
CapTel 840i	3
Voice Carry-Over Phone	1
ΠY	1

**Advertisements & Sponsorships** 

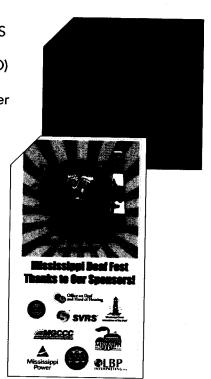
During this reporting year, seven advertisements or sponsorships featuring TRS and CapTel services were provided at:

- Mississippi Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials (MAHRO) Conference in August 2016
- Mississippi Association of the Deaf (MSAD) Christmas Gala in December 2016
- National Association of Social Workers (NASW) in March 2017
- Mississippi Speech-Language-Hearing Association (MSHA) in March 2017
- Deaf Fest in May 2017
- Mississippi School for the Deaf (MSD) Reunion in June 2017
- MSAD in June 2017



## **Promotional Items**

Promotional items were distributed at outreach events to share information about Mississippi Relay services. Items included pens, notepads, and and backscratchers/shoehorns.



# Mississippi Relay Statistics

"The agent did a wonderful job. Never rushes and is absolutely wonderful."

**Telecommunications Relay Service** 

The following information indicates the trends in the annual total number of session minutes, Speech-to-Speech minutes, calls placed by end users, calling trends, call origination, average speed of answer and service level, and contacts with customers. The numbers reflect the traditional relay services (such as TTY, Voice, Spanish TTY and Voice, Voice Carry-Over [VCO], Telebraille, and Speechto-Speech [STS]) currently provided by Mississippi Relay.

See appendix for a complete statistics report.

#### **Session Minutes**

Figure 2 indicates the total monthly session minutes processed through Mississippi Relay. The total of 113,314 minutes includes all aspects of TRS services including interstate, interstate directory assistance, international, toll-free, and 900 numbers. STS and CapTel minutes are reported separately. This represents a decrease of

Fi	g. 2: <b>S</b> ess	ion Minutes	
July	10,685	January	11,780
August	12,790	February	10,687
September	10,737	March	10,023
October	8,632	April	6,724
November	11,274	May	5,663
December	9,081	June	5,237

16.87%, or 22,992 minutes, compared to the previous year.

## Speech-to-Speech Session Minutes

This reporting year contained 5,830 Speech-to-Speech (STS) session minutes, which represents an increase of 145.4%, or 3,454 minutes, compared to the previous year. See Figure 3.

Fig	3: STS Se	ession Minute	es
July	484	January	708
August	689	February	431
September	259	March	216
October	797	April	311
November	459	May	243
December	702	June	531

### **Outbound Relayed Call Volume**

Figure 4 depicts the total number of outbound relayed calls processed through Mississippi Relay. This reflects all calls handled by relay agents and includes completed calls and busy ring/no answer for all jurisdictions such as local, intrastate (both intralata and interlata), toll-free, directory assistance, 900, international, marine, and general assistance. STS is included as well. For this reporting period, there were

Fig. 4: Ou	tbound R	elayed Call V	olume		
July	July 4,245 January 4,730				
August	4,192	February	4,058		
September	4,224	March	3,792		
October	3,247	April	2,928		
November	3,886	May	3,026		
December	3,836	June	2,996		

45,160 outbound relayed calls, representing a decrease of 14.7%, or 7,768 fewer calls, compared to the previous year.

## **Calling Trends**

Each year in May, specific information detailing where Mississippi Relay TRS calls originated is presented in graphic form. The map in Figure 5 shows where the highest concentrations are in red, yellow, and then green.



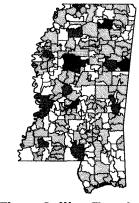


Fig. 5: Calling Trends

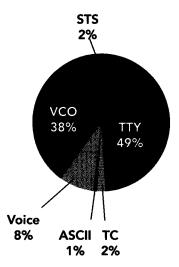


Fig. 6: Call Origination

## **Call Origination**

On average, TTY and TurboCode users, combined, originated 51% of Mississippi Relay calls, with VCO at 38%. Figure 6 shows call type by percentage.

## Average Speed of Answer and Service Level

Figure 7 illustrates that Sprint has exceeded the speed of answer requirement throughout the year. Average Speed of Answer (ASA) identifies the number of seconds required to answer a call. Mississippi Relay's TRS daily requirement is that 85% of all calls

Fig. 7: ASA and SVL

Month	ASA	SVL	Month	ASA	SVL
July	1.1	97%	January	1.9	95%
August	3.3	94%	February	1.1	97%
September	1.9	95%	March	.9	97%
October	2.5	93%	April	.8	98%
November	2.7	94%	May	.8	98%
December	3.4	93%	June	1.1	97%

are answered within 10 seconds. The ASA was 1.79 seconds, and the Service Level (SVL) was that 95.7% of calls were answered within 10 seconds.

### **FCC Annual Consumer Contact Log**

The Customer Relations Manager prepares and submits the mandatory Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Annual Consumer Contact Log Report on both TRS and CapTel to the Mississippi Public Service Commission administration, who then submits the report to the FCC. During the FCC's reporting year from June 2016 to May 2017 for TRS, there were 2 commendations, 0 complaints and 301 inquiries.

## CapTel

The following information indicates the trends of the annual total number of session minutes, call volume, calling trends, and contacts with customers. The numbers reflect the CapTel services (such as voice, data, intrastate, international, and other call services) that are currently provided by Mississippi Relay.

See appendix for a complete statistics report.

#### **Session Minutes**

A breakdown of monthly session minutes is shown in Figure 8, where this reporting year's session minutes totaled 361,920. This represents a decrease of 19.25%, or 86,251 minutes, compared to the previous year.

Fig. 8: Session Minutes				
July	36,301	January	30,222	
August	37,029	February	27,847	
September	33,262	March	26,478	
October	34,770	April	24,212	
November	29,733	May	26,630	
December	29,559	June	25,878	

#### Call Volume

A total of 113,794 Mississippi Relay CapTel calls were generated this reporting year. A breakdown of monthly call volume is displayed in Figure 9, which represents a decrease of 16.6%, or 22,644 calls, from last year.

	Fig. 9: Cal	l Volume	
July	10,848	January	9,458
August	11,824	February	8,092
September	10,679	March	8,157
October	10,769	April	7,483
November	9,505	May	8,837
December	9,285	June	8,857

#### **Calling Trends**

Each year in May, information detailing where Mississippi Relay CapTel calls originated is presented in graphic form. The map in Figure 10 shows where the highest concentrations are in red, yellow, and then green.

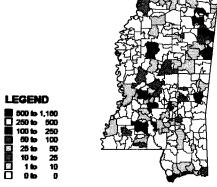


Fig. 10: CapTel Calling Trends

## **Average Speed of Answer and Service Level**

Figure 11 illustrates that Sprint has exceeded the speed of answer requirement throughout the year. "Average Speed of Answer" identifies the number of seconds required to answer a call. Mississippi Relay's CapTel daily requirement is that 85% of all calls are answered within 10 seconds. The Average Speed of Answer (ASA) was 1.00 second, and the Service Level (SVL) was that 99.7% of calls were answered within 10 seconds.

Fig. 11: ASA and SVL

Month	ASA	SVL	Month	ASA	SVL
July	.43	99.7%	January	1.81	99.7%
August	.44	99.5%	February	1.70	99.7%
September	.62	99.5%	March	1.45	99.6%
October	.95	99.7%	April	.91	99.8%
November	.71	99.7%	May	.85	99.6%
December	1.31	99.7%	June	.87	99.7%

## FCC Annual Consumer Contact Log

The Customer Relations Manager prepares and submits the mandatory FCC Annual Consumer Contact Log Report on both TRS and CapTel to the Mississippi Public Service Commission administration, who then submits the report to the FCC. During the FCC's reporting year from June 2016 to May 2017 for CapTel, there were no complaints, 2 commendations, and 59 inquiries.